MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Three permanent and one acting.

(*b*) None.

(*c*) One.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government kindly state why the application from the one woman was rejected ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : The reasons for the rejection of that application have to be enquired into. Government must ask the Director about that.

Mr. A. J. Lopez.

370. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(1) the educational qualification of Mr. A. J. Lopez ;

(2) what he was in Karkatakam 1100 and what his pay then was ;

(3) the nature and date of the subsequent enhancement of his pay and his promotions ; and

(4) whether there were not then better qualified men with greater claims available for the places to which he was promoted ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (1) Mr. Lopez is a matriculate.

(2) Last Karkatakam he was Acting Librarian in the Trivandrum Public Library on Rs. 110 in the scale of Rs. 75-5/1-100-10/2-150.

(3) The post of Librarian having fallen permanently vacant, Mr. Lopez was confirmed in that post in Kanni 1101 (September 1925) and his pay was raised to Rs. 150 per mensem in view of the promotion for which he would have been eligible had he continued in the substantive appointment in the Secretariat upon which he had a lien and where his turn for promotion as Superintendent had come. From 14-12-25 he was appointed Secretary to the Administrative Board, Medical Services, and drew the sanctioned pay of that appointment, *viz.*, Rs. 200-25/2-250. There was no subsequent enhancement of pay or promotion.

(4) He was appointed as Secretary, Administrative Board, Medical Services, as Government considered him the most suitable officer for the post.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether there were any graduate officers, of this grade and of superior grades in the Huzur Secretariat, when he was appointed ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : What is the appointment, please ?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : As Secretary to the Medical Board.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, there were graduate officers of this grade and of superior grades.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Then, may I know how the Government was enabled to find out that he was most suitable for the place?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is a matter of Government's discretion. Government consider that to be the case.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Do the Government consider him superior to the graduate officers of his grade and of higher grades?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is only in relation to the particular appointment that the answer has been given. This supplementary question is a general one.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether Mr. Gopala Aiyangar is senior to him in service and pay?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I wish to know how this arises as a supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: It does not arise as a supplementary question.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Government have laid down any test for the competency or superior ability of an individual?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): They know it from actual experience of the work of the officer concerned.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Then, may I know why his exceptional abilities were not recognised by the previous administration?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not for me to answer that question.

Principle of Nominations to the Legislative Council.

371. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state on what guiding principle the nominations were made to the Legislative Council?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The main guiding principle was to nominate members to represent minorities, interests and communities that failed to secure representation by election.

MR. K. P NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether there are minorities, among Hindu communities, that fail to secure representation, by election, in the Council?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the information just now. I must enquire and find that out.

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